

REMARKS

By this amendment, Claims 1, 2, 3 and 6 have been cancelled and Claims 7, 8 and 9 have been added. Claim 7, 8 and 9 correspond to original Claims 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences entered a new rejection of Claims 1, 2, 3, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, "as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention."

More specifically, the Board indicated that the structure, operation and manner of interaction with one another of the following elements were not described in the specification:

- 1) the "detachable connection element" recited in Claim 1,
- 2) the "coupling element" recited in Claim 1,
- 3) the "connecting element" recited in Claim 1,
- 4) the "detachable element" recited in Claim 1 and
- 5) the "carrier cage" recited in Claim 6.

In addition, the Board indicated that the specification failed to describe i) how the wagons are removably connected to and disconnected from the circulating chain, and ii) the mechanism for moving the wagons along the removal guide track or along the insertion guide track.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments presented herein.

First, Claim 6 has been cancelled. Accordingly, any rejection related thereto should be moot.

As presently claimed, each of the work station wagons is provided with i) at least one detachable connection element provided on one side of said work station wagon, said detachable connection element detachably connecting said work station wagon to said drive chain and ii) at least one connecting element provided on the side of said work station wagon opposite from said detachable connection element, said connecting element connecting said work station wagon to said removal guide track. Referring to Figure 2, the "detachable connection elements" (numbers 7 and 7') engage the drive chain. in the embodiment described on page 3, lines 19 - 22, the such elements consist of guide rollers mounted on vertically projecting mountings, with the guide rollers being removably connected to the drive chain (see page 5, lines 13 - 17). As described on page 6, lines 15-16, the connection can take the form of switchable electromagnets or rocker heels.

In new Claim 7, the "connecting elements" can be, e.g., guide rollers (see page 5, lines 19 - 20). These elements allow the work station wagons to move along the insertion guide track and along the removal guide track.

The claims no longer recite a "coupling element".

The wagons can be driven along the insertion track by a friction drive (see page 4, lines 25 - 27). The operation of such a drive is well know in the art. The movement of the wagons in the removal track may be conducted in the same manner.

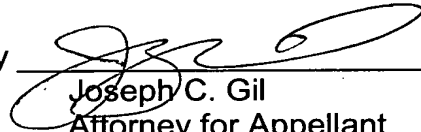
Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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Version with markings to show changes made

As explicitly set forth in 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121(c)(1)(ii), last sentence, a marked up version does not have to be supplied for an added claim or a cancelled claim as it is sufficient to state that a particular claim has been added, or cancelled, and this has been so stated in the Amendment.

In particular, in this case, Claims 1, 2, 3 and 6 have been cancelled, and Claims 7, 8 and 9 have been newly added.